

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

Sunday, March 14, 2010

...2010 National Flood Safety Awareness Week...

Monday, March 15th, through Friday, March 19th, has been designated as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Flooding is a coast to coast threat to the United States and its territories in all months of the year. Flood Safety Awareness Week is intended to highlight some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what you can do to save life and property.

The purpose of Flood Safety Awareness Week is to raise the public's awareness of the dangers of flooding and ways to protect life and property. Flooding is the #1 storm related killer - not tornadoes, not severe thunderstorms, not winter storms. It ranks only behind heat waves in number of casualties for all weather events. Flooding can take many different forms, from river flooding to flash flooding to snowmelt flooding. It occurs in any month of the year, any time of day.

Flooding can occur anywhere and at any time. Floods can arrive within moments or over a longer period of time. They can roll boulders the size of cars, destroy buildings and bridges, and take lives. Knowing how to react when floods threaten can mean the difference between life and death.

A majority of flood related deaths occur when people drive onto flooded roadways or walk through moving water. Many people do not realize that as little as 6 inches of quick moving water can knock a person off of their feet and that 18 to 24 inches of water can float most vehicles, including trucks and sport utility vehicles. While most floods cannot be prevented, there are simple steps you can take to help protect your life and property.

Throughout this week, the National Weather Service will be providing the public with a different flood topic each day. Topics discussed will include hydrological services, flood terminology, flood risk and insurance, and flood safety tips.

Additional information about flooding and flood safety, including educational materials, videos, brochures, and articles, can be found at WWW.FLOODSAFETY.NOAA.GOV.